

## Montgomery County Natural Heritage Inventory Site Report

### Abner Bog

**Site Significance:** State  
**Size:** 7 acres  
**Quadrangle:** Lovejoy and Eleazer  
**Ownership:** U.S.F.S. - Uwharrie National Forest  
**Protection Status:** Registered Natural Heritage Area

#### Significant Factors:

1. Abner Bog is significant due to the rarity of Hillside Seepage Bogs and the mix of piedmont and coastal plain plant species.
2. Abner Bog occurs in the Barnes Creek watershed, which has an Outstanding Resource Water classification.

#### Landscape Relationships:

Abner Bog occurs in the headwaters of a first order tributary of Barnes Creek. Barnes Creek is classified as Outstanding Resource Water by the NC Division of Water Quality. About one mile southwest is Wysner Mountain and two miles southwest is Long Mountain. Abner Bog occurs on U.S.F.S. - Uwharrie National Forest property which extends north into several headwaters streams of Barnes Creek, and into Randolph County.

#### Description of Natural Communities and Rare Plant Populations:

Abner Bog is a small drainage area that is permanently saturated by seepage. The seepage area supports a Hillside Seepage Bog. The bog supports a diversity of piedmont and coastal plain plant species that require moist soil. The bordering slopes are gentle and support a Dry Oak-Hickory Forest. The canopy is dominated with Quercus alba (White oak). Due to past timbering practices, Pinus taeda (Loblolly pine) is also common in the canopy. Other canopy trees include Quercus falcata (Spanish oak), Liriodendron tulipifera (Tuliptree), Acer rubrum (Red maple), Liquidambar styraciflua (Sweet gum), Pinus echinata (Short-leaf pine), Carya glabra (Pignut hickory), Nyssa sylvatica (Black gum), and Quercus velutina (Black oak). Acer rubrum (Red maple) is dominant in the Hillside Seepage Bog.

The understory vegetative structure varies depending on the soil moisture. The dry slopes support Cornus florida (Flowering dogwood), Ilex opaca (American holly), Oxydendrum arboreum (Sourwood), Quercus phellos (Willow oak), Amelanchier arborea (Downy serviceberry), Stryax grandifolia (Storax), and Chionanthus virginicus (Fringe-tree). Ilex decidua (Possum-haw) is the dominant understory tree in the Hillside Seepage Bog. The shrub layer adjacent to the Hillside